

**CAPE MAY COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**Office of the COUNTY ENGINEER**

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Freeholder

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**December 26, 2011**

**To: Lenora Boninfante**  
**County Communications Director**

**From: Dale M. Foster, P.E.**  
**County Engineer**

**Re: Traffic Signal Operational Improvements**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Street (CR623) in Ocean City and**  
**Rio Grande Avenue (CR661) in the City of Wildwood**

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At their December 27, 2011 meeting, the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders awarded a \$2,340,693.35 construction contract to Diehl Electric, Inc., Blackwood, NJ, for traffic signal operational improvements to 34<sup>th</sup> Street (County Road No. 623) from Bay Avenue to Central Avenue in the City of Ocean City and to Rio Grande Avenue (County Road No. 661) from Susquehanna Avenue to Ocean Avenue in the City of Wildwood.

The work involves the upgrading to current standards and synchronizing the traffic signal systems at the 34<sup>th</sup> Street intersections with Bay Avenue, West Avenue, Asbury Avenue and Central Avenue. The signals will be upgraded to be in conformance with the latest edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The MUTCD provides the guidance and standards for the placement of traffic control devices such as pavement markings, signs and traffic signals. Most of the traffic signal is currently mounted on utility poles owned by Atlantic City Electric. All of the traffic signal equipment along 34<sup>th</sup> Street will be replaced with new and mounted on new aluminum poles. In keeping with the development theme that Ocean City desires for the 34<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, the new traffic signal equipment will be powder-coated black in color. New conduits will be installed underground along 34<sup>th</sup> Street from Bay Avenue to Central Avenue to interconnect the traffic signal controllers at each intersection. The traffic signals will be hard-wired together so as to operate in a coordinated and synchronized fashion.

The work program along Rio Grande Avenue (County Road No. 661) consists of upgrading and synchronizing the existing traffic signals from Susquehanna Avenue to Ocean Avenue. Most intersections require the replacement of the signal displays and controller. All new signal displays are to have 12-inch diameter lenses. Currently the signal displays facing side street traffic are 8-inch displays. The controller is contained within the large cabinet at one of the corners of the intersection. The controller is basically a computer that operates the signals. The traffic signals are to be interconnected and synchronized so as to operate from one (1) master controller. The interconnection between controllers is accomplished by installing wiring in existing underground conduits. The conduits were installed in the previous roadway improvement projects.

In addition, pavement markings and signs are to be modified so as to conform to the latest edition of the MUTCD at all intersections within the project. Existing concrete junction boxes will be replaced with polymer concrete junction boxes to eliminate the potential tripping hazard associated with settlement of the concrete about the boxes. The polymer concrete junction boxes are casted in the

concrete sidewalks so that they settle with the sidewalks. Portions of existing sidewalks are to be removed to install new underground conduits to connect to the new junction boxes or signal poles.

All of the traffic signals along both roadways will be equipped with countdown timers for the pedestrian displays. The display will show a figure in steady white when it is appropriate for pedestrians to cross. After the initial step off period, the pedestrian display will flash in an orange color, counting down the time remaining to safely cross the street. When it is not safe to cross the street, a steady orange hand will be displayed.

All intersections will be brought into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To satisfy the standards will require extensive reconstruction of each corner of the intersections in order to properly construct the handicap access ramps. Each ramp will be provided with a detectable warning surface which is an approximately 2-foot wide pad in contrasting color to the concrete with "dimples". The detectable warning surface is typically red in color and is located immediately adjacent to the curb. Any sidewalks removed will be replaced with surface treatment to match the adjacent concrete sidewalk.

Construction of this improvement project is expected to start in late January 2012 and be completed prior to the start of the summer tourist season.

This project is funded with federal funds that were approved through South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization and New Jersey Department of Transportation. The project was designed by Maser Consulting PA out of their Hamilton, NJ office.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Cape May County Engineer's Office at (609) 465-1035 or by email at [countyengineer@co.cape-may.nj.us](mailto:countyengineer@co.cape-may.nj.us).

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cc: Freeholder Director Beyel  
Stephen O'Connor, County Administrator